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Glen Canyon News Release

Swimmer Succumbs at Hall's Creek Bay

Page, Ariz. – On September 12, 2007, a 64-year old man apparently suffered a cardiac arrest while swimming with friends in Halls Creek Bay in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and sank beneath the surface of the water. The Glen Canyon Communication Center received a call for help on marine band radio. Visitors reported that CPR was being performed on a male and that another male in the same party had also had a near-drowning experience.

At approximately 4:00 p.m., John Lord, of Golden, Colorado, was swimming with friends from a houseboat to a small island, a distance of 75 yards. He was approximately 20 yards from the island when his friends noticed he was showing signs of distress. Lord quickly went underwater and was immediately retrieved by two of his friends. He was taken to the island and CPR was started.

Another male in the same group also had difficulties while swimming and was rescued by nearby boaters after sinking below the surface of the water. After being rescued this individual was initially unresponsive but breathing. He quickly regained consciousness after being brought aboard a houseboat.

Park rangers arrived on scene with a Kane County Deputy and a Utah State Park Ranger along with a Classic Lifeguard Helicopter. Rangers were also assisted by a U.S. Air Force doctor who was in the area with his family. Resuscitation efforts on Lord were unsuccessful after 1 hour of treatment. He was declared dead on scene by Classic Lifeguard Helicopter medical personnel. The near drowning patient was air-evacuated to a hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Lord was with a group of friends who were vacationing at Lake Powell to celebrate the life of a friend who had just passed away from cancer.

The fatality is under joint investigation by the National Park Service and Kane County Sheriff's Office.

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